

To: Members of the New Hampshire House Judiciary Committee
From: John Dreher
Date: February 17, 2026

Subject: Opposition to [HB 1442](#) – Protecting Privacy and Safety for All Granite Staters

I am writing to express my strong opposition to [HB 1442](#). This bill represents an unprecedented overreach into the operations of private businesses and the daily lives of all New Hampshire residents.

I urge you to vote **Inexpedient to Legislate** for the following reasons:

- **Unprecedented Interference with Private Businesses:** Unlike previous proposals, HB 1442 specifically targets [places of public accommodation](#). It creates a confusing legal landscape for small businesses and restaurants, essentially inviting them to engage in [discriminatory practices](#) that have been prohibited since 2018.
- **Scientifically Flawed Definitions:** The bill relies on a narrow definition of sex based on the [SRY gene](#). This ignores the medical reality of intersex individuals and creates a situation where Granite Staters' [chromosomes could be subject to state scrutiny](#) just to use a public restroom.
- **Threatens Public Safety and Privacy:** By mandating facility use based on birth sex, the bill would force transgender men—who often have facial hair and masculine appearances—into women's restrooms. As civil rights advocates have noted, this increases the likelihood of conflict and harassment for everyone, including cisgender women who may not fit a stranger's stereotype of femininity.
- **Vetoed Precedent:** Similar attempts to restrict facility access have been repeatedly [vetoed by Republican governors](#) because they are ["overly broad and impractical to enforce."](#) HB 1442 is even more extreme, creating new "willful trespass" penalties that would waste law enforcement resources on a non-existent public safety issue.

HB 1442 does not make New Hampshire safer; it makes our state less welcoming and more litigious. I ask that you protect the dignity and privacy of all residents by opposing this bill.

Sincerely,

John Dreher
Hampstead, NH